

MONTHLY FIRE WEATHER/FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

August 2006

1. REPORTING UNIT: Northern Rockies

2. DATE: 07/26/2006

3. SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS

THIS COMING MONTH	BELOW NORMAL		NORMAL		ABOVE NORMAL	X
THIS SEASON	BELOW NORMAL		NORMAL		ABOVE NORMAL	X

COMMENTS: Much above normal to periodic near record temperatures in July have dried all classes of fuels to critical levels. The majority of the Geographic Area also continues to be below normal for precipitation amounts for July. ERC's have also reached critical values over the past several weeks as a result of the excessively hot and dry conditions.

4. FIRE WEATHER OUTLOOK: There continues to be no strong climatic signals identifiable over the Pacific regarding El Nino or La Nina at this point. The latest climatic outlook for August calls for equal chances of above normal and below normal temperatures across much of the Geographic Area except for above normal temperatures across southeast North Dakota. Above normal temperatures are expected over the eastern half of the Area the first 8-10 days of August. The August precipitation outlook calls for equal chances of above and below normal precipitation across the Geographic Area with the exception of above normal precipitation possible over eastern Montana and far western North Dakota. With all fuel types cured weather related triggers will be dependant upon the location of the monsoon moisture plume. Also, if a more progressive upper trough pattern becomes established over the Pacific an increase in the amount of winds events is possible.

5. FUELS

FINE - GRASS STAGE	GREEN		CURING		CURED	X
NEW GROWTH	SPARSE		NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE (sage, deciduous, conifer): Herbaceous 35-95%

Woody 65-115%

1000 HOUR DEAD FUEL MOISTURE: 8-15% plains

10-15% mountains

NORMAL/AVERAGE FUEL MOISTURE FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR: 12-17% plains 13-17% mountains

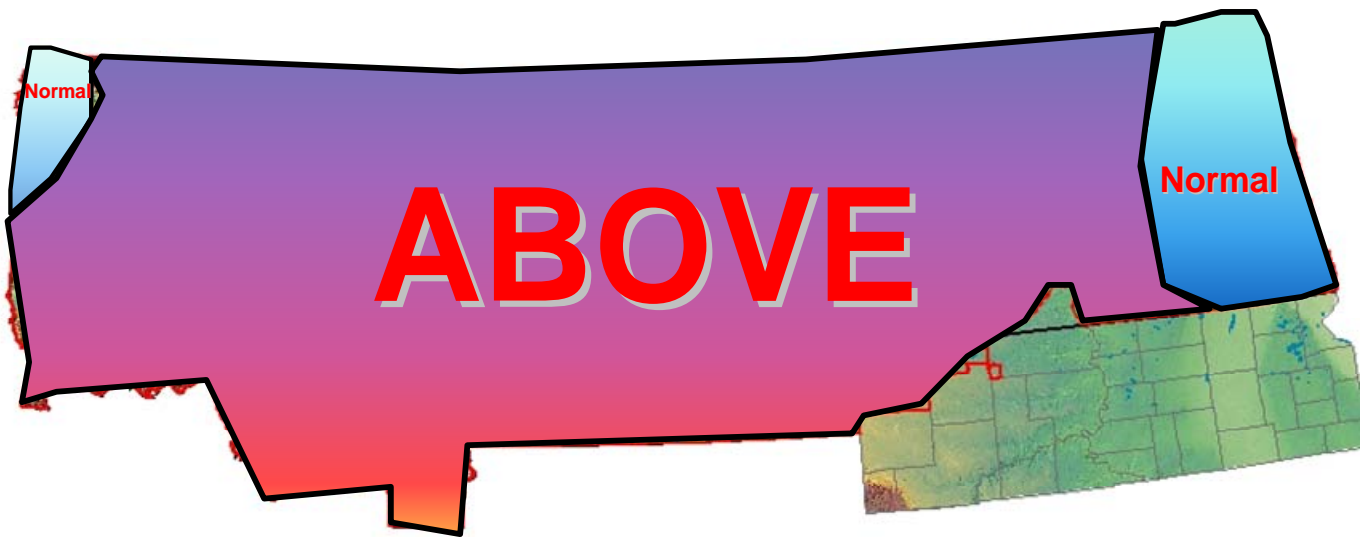
6. AVERAGE FIRE OCCURRENCE/ACRES BURNED (to date 5 year average): 1,406 fires/62,034 acres.

7. ACTUAL OCCURRENCE/ACRES BURNED (to date this year): 1,518 fires/453,511 acres.

8. MATRIX SUMMARY

Geographic Area Name	Northern Rockies
Precipitation Outlook	Normal (Dry)
Temperature Outlook	Normal (Hot)
Fuels and Fire Danger Concerns	All classes of fuels will be at critical thresholds by the beginning of August. Large fire danger must be assessed as extremely high for the vast majority of the Area.
Prescribed Fire Implications	Fire danger may preclude prescribed burning.
Miscellaneous	Drought conditions should worsen over the eastern part of the Area.

9. Map



Northern Rockies
Aug 2006 Outlook

